

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
State Innovation Model
Health Information Technology (HIT) Council

Member Biographies

Roderick Bremby (Co-chair)

Commissioner

Department of Social Services

Roderick L. Bremby was appointed by Governor Dannel P. Malloy as Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS) in March 2011. Commissioner Bremby joined Connecticut state government after an extensive public-sector career in Kansas and Texas, and academic service at the University of Kansas.

From 2003 to 2010, Commissioner Bremby served as the Secretary (chief executive officer) of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, that state's combined public health and environmental protection agency. Appointed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius, he led programs dedicated to providing disease surveillance and prevention efforts, bioterrorism planning guidance, local and rural health assistance, health care and environmental information, and statewide health promotional campaigns. In addition, he oversaw the regulation of public and environmental health functions, including child care centers, hospitals and medical facilities, laboratories, food service, establishments, landfills, confined animal feeding operations, and construction and operating permits for all companies with the potential to pollute the environment.

From 2000 to 2003, Commissioner Bremby served as an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Kansas, where he also served as Associate Director of the university's Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development, and coordinated the launch of the Institute for Community Health and Development.

At the municipal government level, Commissioner Bremby was Assistant City Manager of Lawrence, Kansas, from 1990 to 2000, serving as chief operating officer responsible for police, fire and medical, public works, water and sewer, parks and recreation, finance, information systems, airport management, and budget preparation functions. The Commissioner's municipal experience also includes four years as an Assistant to the City Manager in Fort Worth, Texas.

During his first three years at the Connecticut Department of Social Services, Commissioner Bremby has directed initiatives in such areas as health care program restructuring, modernization of technology and business processes for improved client service delivery, and implementation of budget and legislative program changes. The Commissioner has worked with the Governor's Office, Office of Policy and Management and Department of Administrative Services' Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology to target reinvestment in the agency's staffing and technology infrastructure during a time of increased applications and caseloads.

Mark Raymond (Co-chair)

CIO

Bureau of Enterprise Systems Technology

Mr. Raymond began serving as the Chief Information Officer for the State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services, Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology on June 2, 2011. In this role, Mr. Raymond has broad responsibilities for technology within state.

He has over twenty-five years of technology and business experience. Prior to joining the State, he consulted in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts in the areas of finance, payroll, human resources, budgeting, procurement, human services, revenue, and transportation. His specialties are shared services, administrative systems and technical infrastructure.

Dr. Thomas Agresta

*Associate Professor and Director of Medical Informatics
UConn Health Center*

As a faculty member at UConn, Dr. Agresta spends the majority of his time working with Clinical Informatics, including Health IT evaluation, implementation, upgrades, and data analysis. He also teaches students, residents, and clinicians in the optimal use of HIT. Additionally, Dr. Agresta oversees the Electronic Health Record at the UConn Family Medicine Residency program. Previously, Dr. Agresta served as the Vice Chair of the Health Information Technology Exchange of Connecticut (HITE-CT).

Dr. Patricia Checko

Consumer Advisory Board

Dr. Checko has 50 years' experience in public health and public health policy at the state and local level. During her years at the Department of Public Health (DPH), Dr. Checko oversaw the infectious disease program registries, reporting systems, and was an end user of the state's HIT. She created behavioral risk factor surveys and analyzed results with specific attention to equity and disparity issues. As an end user, Dr. Checko is able to identify the data necessary to evaluate impact. Currently, she serves as the Co-chairman of the SIM Consumer Advisory Board as well as the Central Connecticut Board of Health, the CT Cancer Partnership, the MATCH Coalition (Mobilize Against Tobacco for Connecticut's Health) and the CT Tobacco and Health Trust Fund Board of Trustees.

Jessica DeFlumer-Trapp

*Clinical Manager, Managed Services Division
Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services*

In her current role at the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS), Ms. DeFlumer-Trapp oversees projects related to healthcare reform initiatives including financing and health information technology innovations, leads departmental initiatives related to behavioral health mobile technology research and program development, and serves as the Implementation Team Manager for the DMHAS Electronic Health Record. Previously, Ms. DeFlumer-Trapp led Sound Community Services, a behavioral health outpatient provider, as the Director of Information Technology, and worked as a clinical implementation SME through two behavioral health EHR implementations. She has consulting experience with behavioral health providers in various states with a focus in clinical implementation and the development of clinical workflows. She has 10 years' experience with multiple HIT platforms including Credible Behavioral Health Enterprise Software, Carelogic Enterprise Software, and Web Infrastructure for Treatment Services (WITS), and has predominantly worked with mental health and addiction providers and populations.

Dr. Anthony Dias

Vice President, Data Services

Connecticut Hospital Association

At the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA), Dr. Dias provides insight and support for the CHA initiatives in advocacy, quality and patient safety, regulatory and reimbursement issues, community health and disparities, and the use of data to drive clinical performance. Dr. Dias directs CHA's Data Services team, overseeing ChimeData, a database that contains more than 31 million patient encounters dating back to 1980. Dr. Dias has robust data analytics experience with a focus on knowledge transformation, improving patient safety and quality, and reducing costs. Prior to joining CHA, Dr. Dias was the Managing Director of Innovation & Research at Blue Health Intelligence (BHI) and served in that role at the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. Prior to BHI, Dr. Dias worked at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, where he focused on integrating performance reporting, operational improvement opportunities to mitigate cost, and quality initiatives in behavioral health. He has directed operational management at a community health center, consulted for mental health initiatives, and worked as a psychiatric crisis clinician. Previously, Dr. Dias worked as a clinic founder and general practitioner physician in India.

Tiffany Donelson

Vice President of Program

Connecticut Health Foundation

As Vice President of Program at the Connecticut Health Foundation, Ms. Donelson sets the Foundation's programmatic strategy, which includes grant making, the health leadership fellows program, and evaluation. With her team members, Ms. Donelson determines how to bring issues to light to influence and advocate for health equity on behalf of the underserved and populations of color in Connecticut. Prior to working with the Connecticut Health Foundation, Ms. Donelson held several leadership roles within different business units at Aetna, Inc., the most recent of which was the deputy chief of staff for Aetna's National Businesses Office, a segment of Aetna that comprised nine businesses within the organization. At Aetna, Tiffany also held the role of Director of Strategic Initiatives for an Aetna business line. In the role, she responsible for the successful execution of all projects and initiatives, including managing an Information Technology project to migrate the segment's claims and processing system to a new platform to assure compliance with Health Care Reform ICD-10 regulations. Before joining Aetna, Ms. Donelson was a consultant at Ingenix Consulting and PricewaterhouseCoopers. At Ingenix Consulting (now Optum Health), Tiffany was responsible for consulting with UnitedHealth on product design and the IT solutions for getting pilot insurance products rapidly to the market. Through her work at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Tiffany was responsible for the business development and growth for major healthcare organizations. This work included developing co-management models which focused on establishing hospital quality metrics to incentivize practice groups to provide better patient care and better health outcomes. She received her M.P.H. in health policy and management at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, and her B.S. in biology at Georgetown University.

Dr. Michael Hunt

CPHO/CMIO

St. Vincent's Health Partners

Dr. Hunt is currently the CPHO of St. Vincent's Health Partners, a Physician-Hospital Organization (PHO) that actively manages patients in both commercial and public payment models. Additionally, Dr. Hunt is the CMIO of St. Vincent's Health Services. St. Vincent's Health Services recently implemented Cerner's OneChart and the Ministry is optimizing the EMR while investigating how to use other tools interoperatively (including Optum and Senti7). There, Dr. Hunt works to unite the clinical and technological needs currently available to the network, participate with strategic planning

to meet the changing requirements for delivery care models, and allow successful participation in joint ventures. St. Vincent's is recognized as a leader using data successfully to improve the health of patient populations while meeting payer quality and utilization expectation. Dr. Hunt has also worked as a physician informaticist and CMIO for 7 years, during which he implemented an EMR in 29 hospitals and in more than 300 offices. He has worked with decision support, reporting, information portability, portals, telehealth, peripherals, and mobile devices, among other HIT areas. Dr. Hunt has both clinical and administrative functionality experience. Dr. Hunt is both a user of technology, as a clinically active pediatrician, and an IT specialist. His background demonstrates the ability to apply clinical, regulatory, and financial requirements to information system functionality that supports the care of the patient no matter the care environment; hospital, emergency department, urgent care, office, skilled nursing facility, home health, etc.

Ludwig Johnson

CIO

Middlesex Health System

For 24 years, Mr. Johnson has overseen the development of all system's activities for Middlesex Health System, including the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) and a direct network for communicating CCDs. Middlesex Health System is an advanced IT environment, recognized by Hospitals and Health Networks as a "Most Wired Hospital" for three years, a Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) level 6, and is involved in several community based projects with the local FQHC and their expansive Outpatient Behavioral Health organizations. Additionally, Mr. Johnson is running the operational roll out of an ACO project with the CMS. Mr. Johnson has worked in the Connecticut healthcare environment, including many statewide initiatives, for 30 years. He chaired the CHA's CIO Council and is a board member of eHealth CT, a pilot tester of the state HIE.

Vanessa Kapral

Information Technology Manager

Department of Public Health

Ms. Kapral has been the Information Technology Manager at the Department of Public Health (DPH) since 2007. She is responsible for all IT aspects within DPH—infrastructure, help desk, applications support, and Project Management and most recently the Meaningful Use project.

Prior to her DPH assignment, she worked as an IT manager within the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Ms. Kapral has been with the State of Connecticut since 1999 and prior to that worked for Aetna Insurance for 25 years.

Matthew Katz

EVP/CEO

Connecticut State Medical Society

In his role at the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), Mr. Katz interacts with more than 6,000 physicians and physicians in training as they engage in the evaluation, adoption, and implementation of health information technology. CSMS has engaged in activities of product review, product evaluation, and product recommendation with their membership and practices. As a founding member of EHealth Connecticut, CSMS is involved in a number of health information technology programs at the state and national level. CSMS has also surveyed their membership on HIT use and adoption and worked with national organizations, including CMS, to explore how meaningful use requirements can be improved.

Through this experience, Mr. Katz gained insight into the “dos and don’ts” of product selection and experienced both workflow correction and practice deterioration tied to HIT adoption. Outside of his work at CSMS, Mr. Katz chairs a subcommittee of the Physicians Advocacy Institute where he helped design a practice management resource tool for physician practices that is used by thousands of physicians nationwide. He is Chair of the American Association of Medical Society Executives State CEO Committee that focuses on practice management and related resources for physician and medical societies. In addition, Mr. Katz is a member of the Connecticut Chapter of the Medical Group Management Association, the Connecticut All Payer Claims Database (Access Health) committee, the Complex Care Committee of the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight, the Access Health CT Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Committee, and an Advisory Board member of the Comparative Effectiveness Public Advisory Council (CEPAC). Mr. Katz was recently published in peer reviewed literature tied to issues of workforce data, health equity data, and patient centered medical home (PCMH) development and implementation. Previously, Mr. Katz ran the American Medical Association (AMA) Practice Management Resource Center charged with helping physicians navigate health information technology adoption specific to claims processing and billing. In this role Mr. Katz also worked with staff to evaluate patient and disease registries.

Dr. Alan Kaye

Vice President

Radiological Society of Connecticut

In addition to serving as the Vice President of the Radiological Society of Connecticut, Dr. Kaye is the CEO of Advanced Radiology Consultants (ARC), a 31-physician practice that serves 2 hospital radiology departments and 7 outpatient imaging centers. ARC has been an early adopter and promoter of numerous IT enhancements to patient care. They were the first practice to incorporate PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication Software), a remote viewing software for ordering physicians and patients, and radiology specific patient engagement portals. ARC was one of the first two radiology practices in the US to obtain certification for Meaningful Use national initiatives. Additionally, Dr. Kaye is an Officer and Board Member of the American College of Radiology, serving on its IT, Economics, and Government Relations Commissions. He has been Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Radiological Society of Connecticut for 24 years. Dr. Kaye has 31 years’ experience as a practicing radiologist in Connecticut and previously served as the Chairman of the Department of Radiology at Bridgeport Hospital.

Mike Miller

Client Relationship Executive

Optum

Mr. Miller has spent more than 15 years assisting Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies in the use of technology to increase collaboration, improve operational efficiencies, enhance the quality of care, and reduce costs. He has been involved in a number of strategic planning and technical implementation efforts nationwide for HHS agencies including the effective use of analytics in health care environments. Mr. Miller also previously served as a member of the State of Connecticut State Innovation Model Health Information Technology (SIM/HIT) Work Group Model Design team.

In Alabama, Illinois and Kentucky, he worked with treatment provider networks on implementing technology to support mental health and addiction treatment services. Mr. Miller also worked with Tribal grantees in Alaska, Arizona and Michigan. He also helped deliver two nationally recognized award-winning solutions – in Montgomery County, MD and Lane County, OR -- for collaboration for the purposes of improving quality of care in a behavioral health care setting. These systems connected youth services departments with private treatment providers and the justice system.

Mr. Miller currently is focused on helping states with their Health Care Reform strategies and execution. He is a graduate of Boston College with a BA in Economics and received his MBA from Portland State University.

Amanda Skinner

*Executive Director, Clinical Integration Population Health
Yale New Haven Health System*

As Executive Director, Ms. Skinner leads the clinical integration and population health enterprise for Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS). She manages the development and implementation of a clinically integrated network for YNHHS and strategic initiatives for value-based care and population health management. Additionally, Ms. Skinner is responsible for the implementation of clinical transformation activities in the practice setting that will improve the value of the care the YNHHS delivers, ensuring that their care processes focus on wellness and prevention, chronic disease management, and appropriate utilization of healthcare to ensure patients are able to access the care they need at the appropriate time. Ms. Skinner developed and is responsible for multiple population based care management programs including PCMH and the care management program for 35,000 lives covered through the YNHHS benefits plan. Ms. Skinner is involved in optimizing Epic to leverage the technology's ability to engage with patients, track performance on the quality of care, and ensure care is effectively managed across a continuum and across settings, specifically focusing on the development of patient registries and the clinical documentation workflows necessary to support data capture into those registries. In addition, Ms. Skinner oversees the implementation of Conifer's value-based care suite of tools including the integration with Epic, the HRA platform, and payer data. Ms. Skinner Co-chairs the Emmi Implementation Steering Committee at YNHHS. Previously, Ms. Skinner served for 10 years as a nurse-midwife in a clinical practice.

Sheryl Turney

*Senior Director, All Payer Claims Database Analytics
HealthCore, Inc., Anthem, Inc.*

As Senior Director at HealthCore, Inc., Ms. Turney is responsible for providing strategic direction and policy leadership for All Payer Claims Data Base (APCD) efforts, including the development of enterprise strategy for APCD reporting, cost trend reporting and managing APCD research analytic projects. For the 5 years prior to her current role, Ms. Turney was responsible for the execution and timely submission of APCD extracts for Anthem. Prior to her experience with Anthem, Ms. Turney served as a Senior Management Consultant at Turney Enterprises, LLC, where she worked with well-established and start-up enterprises including health information technology centered projects such as the UConn Health Center's asthma medical management information system that contained an artificial intelligence based medical information alter system with clinical, medication, and behavior models. In addition, Ms. Turney provided consulting and leadership to Boehringer Ingelheim as they developed a new model for monitoring, managing and reporting on clinical trial results. Ms. Turney has also held leadership positions at Cigna, The Hartford, and Travelers that required IT vendor and asset management, assessment of testing and quality practices, and the alignment of business and IT strategies. Ms. Turney has experience translating programmatic strategy into multi-year roadmaps and executable projects.

Dr. Victor Villagra

*Associate Director
University of Connecticut Health Disparities Institute*

Dr. Villagra's work with UConn involves investigating and recommending a plan for the UConn Health Center Clinical and Translational Science Institute, Community Consortium (Area III) to be the region's Center for Innovation in Disease Management (IDM). In addition to his work with UConn, Dr. Villagra is the President of Health & Technology Vector, Inc. The company's mission is to decrease, postpone, or eliminate the physical, emotional and financial burden of illness among all peoples. His extensive background includes his responsibilities as the national medical director and vice president of Quality and Medical Strategy for CIGNA HealthCare, as well as medical director Continuous Health

Improvement Program for Geisinger Health Plan. Dr. Villagra is a former Co-chair of the Health IT Workforce off the Healthcare Cabinet.

Josh Wojcik

Policy Director

Office of the State Comptroller

Mr. Wojcik is the Policy Director at the Office of the Comptroller. In this role he is responsible for supporting the Comptroller in his policy initiatives, including efforts to improve financial transparency in the state, reducing health care costs and improving quality. The state Comptroller's Office administers the state employee health care plan, the largest plan in the state covering more than 200,000 lives. As part of the office's administrative efforts it retains a secure claims database which is utilized to identify trends and potential problem areas. In his role as Policy Director Mr. Wojcik has participated in the selection of the data warehouse administrator, and successfully pushed for the adoption of more advanced data analytics tools. Prior to joining the Comptroller's Office in 2012, Mr. Wojcik worked as a researcher for the Connecticut Senate Democratic Caucus specializing in health care and fiscal policy.

Moh Zaman

Vice President, Analytics

Hartford Healthcare

Mr. Zaman has experience with hospital based information technology systems, including EMR consolidation, data exchange, data analytics, and rollout across multi hospital systems. Hartford HealthCare has extensive experience in integrated health systems, marked by strong patient focus, heightened efficiency, consistent quality performance and open, collaborative sharing of best practices.